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OXC 5359
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0 6 JUL 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Operations Division, OSA
Chief, Communications Division, OSA
Chief, Intelligence Division, OSA
Chief, Materiel Division, OSA

SUBJECT: Discussions with the Commander of Area 51

1. PILOT TRAINING PROGRAM:

[redacted] indicated that the Pilot Training Program is not in the process of revision since the first sorties can be accomplished using aircraft #124, and adequate information is not available to finalize the last eight or nine sorties. I advised [redacted] that this Headquarters was not in receipt of a final version of the Pilot Training Program; the original draft was coordinated at this Headquarters and comments were provided to Area 51 by message, and this is the last action taken. 50X1

Request the Operations Division advise the current status of the Pilot Training Program.

2. CREW CONTROL MANUAL:

[redacted] advised that he was having considerable difficulty with his staff in coming up with a realistic requirement. He thoroughly understands the problem and will take action as soon as possible. He was advised that a message was enroute prodding Area 51 staff for a manual. 50X1

3. STAFF VISITS TO AREA:

It is mandatory that the D/FA Divisions visit the Area on a frequent and regular basis. I will expect a staff visit from each Division on a minimum basis of once each sixty days.

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4. KC-135 TANKERS:

[redacted] has fixed opinions on the method of control of tanker aircraft. In general, we concur in the control procedures but are dynamically opposed regarding the implementation procedures. 50X1

Request the Operations Division prepare a Tanker Control Procedure so that AD/OSA may be briefed, and a coordination visit be accomplished at Headquarters SAC.

5. E & E TRAINING:

[redacted] was advised that the mandatory requirements for training would fall in three categories: 50X1

a. Resistance to Interrogation

   This training will be accomplished by Headquarters.

b. Survival Training

   To be accomplished by Area 51

c. Escape and Evasion

   To be accomplished by Area 51

Tentative approval has been received of the programmed requirements established by the Intelligence Division. These requirements must now be taken to Area 51 for coordination prior to publishing a Headquarters directive. [redacted] is violently opposed to spending $4,000 for a special vehicle to transport project pilots during this training. I concur with [redacted] and feel that the method of implementation is his responsibility. 50X1 50X1

6. HEADQUARTERS STAFF PERSONNEL:

I surfaced with [redacted] the requirement during the coming year to provide an A-12 qualified Operations Officer to become a member of the Headquarters staff. While this requirement was unpleasant, it did not come as a surprise. No action necessary on this item at this time. 50X1

7. EDP:

I advised [redacted] that it would be our intent at the earliest possible moment to conduct a CPX in the Headquarters employing the computers and the electronic data plotter. The purpose of this CPX is to determine the amount of detail required by Area 51 as well as the Headquarters' Operations staff. 50X1

8. VISITORS TO AREA 51:

[redacted] has had some difficulty controlling visitors at Area 51. D/FA representatives visiting Area 51 must coordinate their visits with their counterparts prior to establishing a date. This coordination would be followed by an official message to Area 51 advising the names of representatives involved and the purpose of the visit. 50X1

D/FA representatives will report to the Commander Area 51 on arrival and will make themselves available to him prior to departure for the purpose of briefing him regarding the results of their visit, and recommendations they intend to make when returning to Headquarters.

9. HEADQUARTERS PILOT GROUND SCHOOL:

[redacted] fully agreed with the requirement for providing a pilot ground school for Operations personnel at Headquarters. He will provide two or three pilots headed by [redacted] for this purpose. 50X1 50X1

Request that the Operations Division coordinate a time for this school as soon as possible.

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10. FLIGHT PLANNING DATA:

Considerable discussion took place regarding the responsibility for flight planning data. The result of this discussion is that Area 51 will be held responsible for providing flight planning data to the Headquarters Operations staff as soon as a change becomes apparent.

11. CHASE POLICY:

[redacted] made a concerted effort to obtain a Headquarters policy on the use of chase aircraft for the A-12, AF-12, and the R-12. The result of his effort was a comment by AD/OSA that we will study this problem and meet with him at a later date. 50X1

12. AIRCRAFT #123:

[redacted] was directed by the Headquarters to send his copy of the accident report to Kelly Johnson. 50X1

Request the Operations Division arrange to send another copy for Area 51's use.

13. OPERATIONAL READINESS:

[redacted] has advised AD/OSA that he will have two operationally-ready pilots by the time a reliable aircraft becomes available. I did not concur with his comment because it will be necessary for the Headquarters to conduct an ORI of Area 51 prior to declaring the detachment operationally ready. 50X1

Request Operations Division give some thought to an ORI so that we will be prepared when the time comes to conduct this inspection.

[redacted] 50X1

Deputy for Field Activities, OSA

cc: AD/OSA

[redacted] ILLEGIB

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D/FA/OSA [redacted] (23 July 1963) 50X1

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